

BUTTON INDUSTRY IS PROSPEROUS

SEVEN FACTORIES SHOW IN MISSOURI RED BOOK REPORT FLOURISHING BUSINESS.

MILLIONS OF SHELLS USED

Pearl Buttons of All Sizes Are Made From the Products of Missouri's Seashells, and the Value Is Nearly Half a Million.

Jefferson City.—Pearl button factories, located in La Grange, Canton, Louisiana and Memphis, all flourishing Missouri manufacturing centers, during the fiscal year which the 1913 Missouri Red Book covers, manufactured pearl buttons and other ornaments to the value of \$328,470, according to the bureau of labor statistics.

Of the seven factories which report, three are in Canton and two in La Grange, Lewis county; one in Louisiana, Pike county, and the seventh in Memphis, Scotland county.

Millions of mussel shells are used to produce the output of \$328,470 of pearl buttons and ornaments. It is stated that the number of buttons turned out was 188,749,296, ranging in size from those with a diameter of two inches down to those with a diameter of a quarter of an inch.

One Missouri factory has shipped its output as far east as Germany and England, which fact speaks highly for Missouri pearl buttons, as further east there are many such factories.

In former years a goodly portion of the shells used by the Missouri factories came from the bed of the Mississippi river north of the mouth of the Missouri, but now the state must depend upon the mussel diggers of the Wabash, Black, White, Cumberland, Tennessee, the Illinois and other streams for their supply. Shells are still obtained from the upper Mississippi, but not in the quantities of former years. For 1912 the crop, according to the federal authorities, amounted to 80,000,000 pounds of shells, worth \$325,000.

The pearl button industry of Missouri will last as long as mussel shells can be readily obtained. The federal authorities are now wrestling with the problem of artificial propagation, but laws are needed to protect the mussel beds. The factories in which the blanks and the buttons are made are all well built, generally of brick, and are full of intricate steel machinery. The workers are skillful and well paid, their occupation being far from monotonous, owing to the active lives they lead and the many interesting stages each shell passes through before it finally appears as a string of lustrous buttons of varying sizes, ready to be sorted and stitched on to cards for the market.

Commission to Fix Standards.

Jefferson City.—Hearings will be held by the Missouri public service commission during the months of January and February preliminary to fixing standards for water, gas and electric light companies in this state. It will require a series of hearings and exhaustive investigation on the part of the experts of the commission to arrive at just standards for all three of these services.

School Bonds Are Hit.

Jefferson City.—If the treasury department at Washington rules that school and road districts and drainage districts are not political subdivisions of Missouri and bonds issued by them are subject to the income tax rate of interest on these securities will have to be increased to make them salable.

Invitations for Governor's Ball.

Jefferson City.—Gov. and Mrs. Major sent out invitations for the annual military ball at the executive mansion Jan. 5. The officers of the national guard and the governor's personal staff of colonels will be out in full regalia. The governor's colonels have only this one chance a year to show off their uniforms, gold braid and highly polished swords.

Convict, Twice Insane, Gets Pardon.

Jefferson City.—Gov. Major pardoned Henry J. Haynes, who was sent to the penitentiary from Johnson county in October, 1904, under sentence of four years for grand larceny. Haynes has been sent twice from prison to the state hospital for the insane at Fulton for treatment, remaining in that institution some time. Counting the time passed in the hospital at Fulton, he served his sentence more than twice.

McKinley Company Doubles Stock.

Jefferson City.—The Jefferson City Light, Heat and Power company, a McKinley corporation, which recently purchased the Jefferson City Bridge and Transit company, filed notice with the public service commission of an increase of stock from \$200,000 to \$400,000.

Senator Cullom's Cousin Dies.

Carthage.—Francis Cullom, 79, a cousin of United States Senator Cullom of Illinois, is dead here. He was a veteran of the civil war.

State to Keep Convicts' Money.

Jefferson City.—Although attention has been called to the statute enacted in 1907 requiring the warden of the penitentiary to set aside 5 per cent of the earnings of convicts for the use of their dependent relatives, no money will be set aside under the new contract soon to be awarded, Gov. Major said.

The statute has never been complied with. The state already has taken unlawfully from the convicts over \$125,000 belonging by virtue of law to the dependents of the inmates.

The new contract will be awarded at 75 cents a day per convict. The amount to which each convict is entitled after Jan. 1 will be 14 cents a day. During the next two years, for which the new contract runs, if the statute is still ignored, the state will have unlawfully deprived the dependent relatives of convicts of approximately \$45,000 additional.

Gov. Major says nothing can be done without legislation, but admits that Warden McClung could keep a separate book account of the money due the convicts under this statute until the next legislature convenes.

The governor says the records of the institution will show how many days are worked annually by each convict and this could be used by the legislature as a basis for the payment of back money due the convicts, if it is decided to do so.

Attorney-General Barker, member of the board of prison inspectors, said recently that he would ask that this statute be complied with, and that the warden be directed to set aside the earnings as the statute provides, even though it cannot be paid until appropriated by the legislature. Barker is now in New York and no new expression regarding his intentions could be obtained.

The people of Jefferson City, through the Provident association, are now caring for 25 or 30 dependent relatives of convicts.

Mines Closed and Wages Reduced.

Jefferson City.—A report from Joplin concerning the mining business in that district says:

The basis range for zinc sulphide ores last week was \$36 to \$39, basis of 60 per cent metallic zinc, with premium lots selling up to \$42.

For the corresponding week of 1912 zinc sulphide brought \$54 to \$57 a ton, basis, with cheaper lots selling up to \$60. Speller was then quoted at \$7.15.

Many mines have cut wages, but there has been no indication of labor strikes. The workmen seem content to accept lower pay, temporarily, rather than be thrown out of employment altogether.

At one large mine in the district the operators had a great surplus reserve tonnage at the time that zinc ore was selling for \$64, basis, about 14 months ago. They held in the hope of getting \$70. The ore is still in the bin.

Calamine prices, which respond to sulphide offerings, are weaker at \$13 to \$19, basis of 40 per cent metallic zinc, while the choicest grades sell up to \$24.

Low lead ore prices may be anticipated as long as metal remains at its present weak quotation of \$3.85 to \$3.90.

Bridegroom Sues for Charivari.

Worth.—Because he wanted to treat members of a charivari party on candy instead of cigars those who had gone to help Marvin M. Pigg celebrate his wedding last week ducked the bridegroom in a nearby pond. They now are facing a lawsuit.

Pigg treated the serenaders courteously, offering them candy.

They would not accept it, telling him to "set up the cigars." This he good-naturedly refused to do, and when members of the crowd suggested ducking him in the pond he thought they were joking.

At their invitation he accompanied them to the pond, not thinking they would carry out their threat. He was completely immersed in the almost icy water.

In addition to injury the cold bath may do his health, Pigg charges his expensive wedding suit was ruined.

To Sell 1,500,000 Seals.

Columbia.—Advance estimates on the sale of Red Cross seals in Missouri for 1913 are placed at 1,500,000 seals by Dr. Walter MacNab Miller, secretary of the Missouri Association for Relief and Control of Tuberculosis. Three tons of circulars, posters, statistics and facts about the prevalence of tuberculosis in Missouri and the work of the society have been distributed this week.

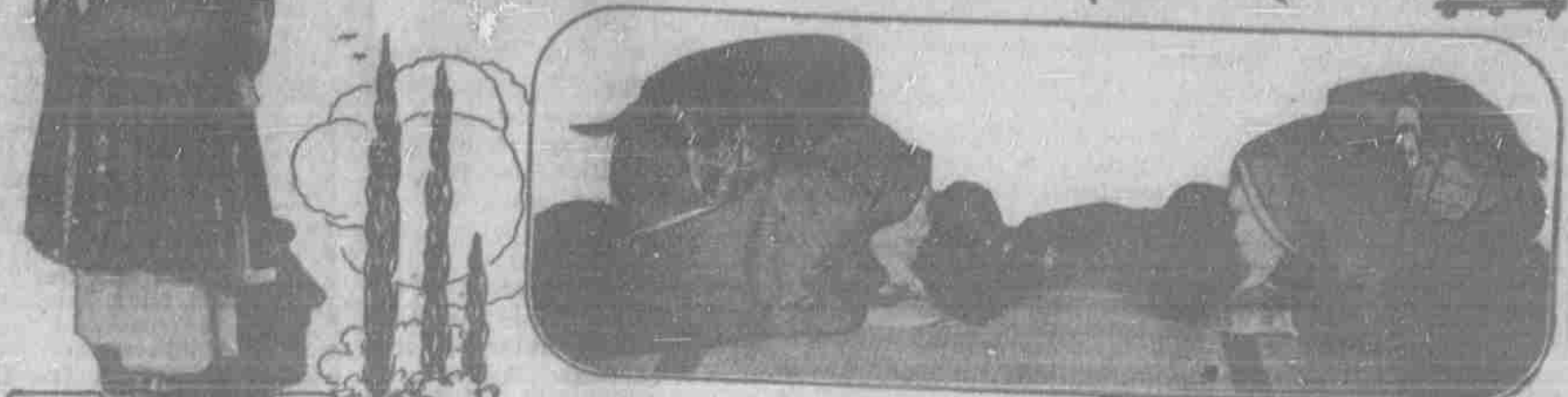
To Eliminate Middleman.

Kansas City.—A co-operative central depot for farm products which will eliminate the "middleman" and divide his profits between the producer and the consumer is the aim of the Farmers' Equity union. Fifty delegates, representing 10 states, are attending a meeting of the union in this city. The union was organized three years ago. It has dealt thus far in grain only and its members are farmers.

Marshall.—Ministers in Marshall

are being called out of bed by telephone in the dead of night by persons who have "got religion" as an outgrowth of one of the greatest revival meetings ever held in Saline county. It is being carried on by the Presbyterian and Baptist denominations by Rev. Mr. Cates, a Baptist evangelist. Meetings are going on day and night and there have been 300 conversions. Ministers virtually are "sleeping with one eye open," to be in readiness for those who wish at late hours to come into the fold.

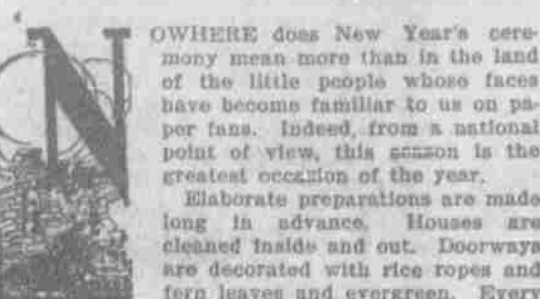
NEW YEARS IN MANY LANDS



NEW YEARS GREETING IN JAPAN



BULGARIAN WOMAN IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE



WELSH FAMILY TRADING NEW YEAR'S GREETING



GERMAN STUDENTS CELEBRATING NEW YEARS

OWHERE does New Year's ceremony mean more than in the land of the little people whose faces have become familiar to us on paper fans. Indeed, from a national point of view, this season is the greatest occasion of the year.

Elaborate preparations are made long in advance. Houses are cleaned inside and out. Doorways are decorated with rice ropes and fern leaves and evergreen. Every housewife buys a pot or two of "prosperous age plant," a miniature pine tree, some bamboo, and some plum twigs, to win for her home by ornaments like these the favor of the jealous deities that guard the future.

The city streets resound with the mallet blows of the dough pounders making "mochi," the Japanese equivalent of plum pudding. All debts are paid. New clothes are bought. There are toys for the children, and picture cards that bring good fortune and are good to dream on when tied securely to the wooden pillow.

O, happy New Year! Day will hardly dawn before each town and village will be stirring. There is so much to do in celebration. First there will come the ceremonial breakfast, when the health of all the family must be drunk in that rice wine called "sake." Then visits must be paid to all acquaintances. Father will wear no more the traditional costume, fantastic and peculiar. For him the frock coat now, of European manufacture. But mother, in her quaint kimono and elaborate head-dress, will look just as she has looked on New Year's day since time immemorial.

The children will be decked out in gorgeous colors; they will throng the streets, clattering along on their wooden clogs in pigeon toed but joyful haste, and shouting "Banzai!" to friends and foreigners. In the streets clowns will perform strange antics, exclaiming loudly meanwhile:

"Hail, hail, ye gods of heaven and earth! Significant omens are in the air, and the universe is full of lucky signs."

To accompaniment of flute and drum, two-legged lions will give the "lion's dance" in masque. Strange masqueraders will dart hither and thither through streets and temple gardens.

It will be a happy time for Japanese children. For three glad days every little girl will expect to play her favorite game of shuttlecock and bat-tledore. The boys will fly their brand new kites. The children will play games with brightly colored balls, chanting countless rhymes. Grown people will play New Year's card games. The firemen will give acrobatic exhibitions on their ladders. Every nook and corner of Japan will be in gala dress and gala mood.

Northern France is not far behind Japan in appreciation of the significance of the New Year. There Christmas, so important on our calendar, is scarcely celebrated, except by attendance at midnight mass and by a festive supper. But the last night of the year, the "Veil of St. Silvestre," calls for observance, and the first day of the new year, "le jour de l'an," or "le jour d'etrenne," is dedicated to the renewal of friendship and to general gift giving.

So universal, in fact, has the custom become of giving presents and pretty little souvenirs that the expression "bonne etrenne" means good fortune and "mal etrenne" misfortune. Candy and flowers are acceptable gifts in France, but there is only one real rule in the matter—a New Year's gift must not be useful.

In most Scotch households, as in France, New Year's day takes the place of Christmas, an evidence of ancient sympathy when both countries regarded England as a mutual enemy. On the last night of the year, in rural districts, groups of men and boys go disguised from house to house singing curious songs, such as this:

Rise up, good wife, and shake yer feathers.
Minnie think that we are beggars;
We are bairnies come to play.
Rise up and give us hogmanay.

blue and white marks that decorate every dwelling in the village.

Scotland is, as well, the land of cakes, and at this season the bakers' shops are filled with toothsome dainties, sugar covered and mottled in ice.

Germany observes various customs. Calls are made on January 1, and gifts are exchanged; delicious little cakes are eaten in honor of the festival day. Different neighborhoods have characteristic rites and superstitions.

Thus, in the Black Forest a workman likes to work a little bit at his trade the first day of the year, to coax luck in business; most picturesque is the vander of clocks, who sets out to sell one at least of his wares. Munich drinks deep to the health of the season in good Bavarian brew.

Jena, whose people recognize descent from those ancient Germans who believed in a god that brought light and warmth each year into the world to overcome the cold and dark of winter, builds in its public square at New Year's time a great bonfire, which typifies this ever new gift of the genial old deity that loved warmth and gave light.

Thither at midnight the people carry the things they wish to cast out of their lives with the old year.

Fire as a New Year's symbol is favored in Wales, as well. There fires are burned on New Year's day to purify the house for the entrance of a new and glad some era; and the ashes are kept sacredly from year to year, esteemed for special medicinal virtues.

The ringing of bells to announce the death of the old year and the birth of the new one is common in England and Scotland and in some parts of the United States. In many English churches impressive midnight services are held.

In the dates of Westmoreland it is usual to open the west door to let the old year out and to open the east door to let the new year in.

In England it is still an enjoyable practice to offer a mince pie to every caller during the last week of the old year, for every pie eater under a different roof represents a happy month during the year to come. Often as January 1 draws near one hears the expression:

"Thanks, I have eaten my twelve, so please excuse me."

What probably is the strangest New Year's rite is held in the Cevennes mountains, in southern France. At the last evening mass of the old year the herds and flocks of the peasantry are gathered before the portals of the little stone church high up on the mountain side and are

blessed by the priest and sprinkled with holy water by the acolyte who follows him, in order that that this, the sole wealth of the countryside, may increase and prosper during the year to come.

The sight of the holy hour is wonderful. As the church bell tolls above them the frightened animals bleat and bellow and try madly to escape. First the oxen are blessed, then the cows, next the sheep and lambs, and finally the goats and pigs.

Throughout Europe many delightful customs prevail. In Scandinavia a feast is always prepared for the little birds, which might otherwise go hungry, on account of the deep snows.

In Holland, as in Scotland, the wind is noted with care, because the luck of the year will be determined by the direction whence it blows. The south wind brings heat and fertility, the west wind milk and fish, the north wind cold and storm, and east wind a fruitful season.

In Italy the New Year is a day of greeting and good will and special feasting. Sicilian peasants take advantage of the fate to drive to town in their gay carts, so that the country roads are merry with the music of tinkling bells.

And Swiss folk, practical, industrious, stop their work for the nonce and visit friends, even when they have to carry their babies down the mountain slopes in cradles on their heads.

Bulgaria's heart history is of especial moment just now. On happy New Year's day in Bulgarian villages the small boys run from house to house waving branches of the cornel tree and shouting greetings as they tap all they meet with the luck bringing branches.

Bulgarian girls go through an interesting ceremony in an effort to pry into the secrets of the days to come. On New Year's eve a queen, chosen by lot, guards a kettle full of water, in which both men and maidens have dropped finger rings or some personal trinkets. Till dawn she watches.

Then to an open place in the center of the village she takes the precious kettle, covered with a cloth, a dancing, singing crowd following her. An oracle, who has been selected for eloquence of speech, proclaims successive fortunes. He cries:

"The lucky girl whose ring shall appear shall marry the best man in the village."

The queen of the festival dips her hand into the kettle and brings forth a ring, and its owner receives it from her secure in the belief that good luck betides her matrimonially before another New Year.

GETTING BACK.

"Why do you insist on trying to sell me beef-steak and beans and buckwheat cakes?" demanded the barber. "I told you all I wanted was two fried eggs."

"Well, I was in your shop yesterday," retorted the restaurant man. "All I wanted was a shave, but you bulldozed me into a shampoo, a foam fix, and a tonic rub."

A BAD AWAKENING.

"Warden, where are my flowers? Give me those flowers."

"Those flowers are for an embassador in the next cell."

"Flowers for an embassador, with a murderer in the same jail? A life of crime is not what I was led to expect."

NOT DIFFICULT.

"I wish I could do something startling," said Gladys Gloom, sick unto death with ennui.

"Well, Gladys, that is easily accomplished," said her close friend, Bella Blaise. "Go back to that little old-fashioned town where you were born and smoke a cigarette on the public square."